

2 July 1981  
MAU-1049

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Austrian Bureau - June 1981

## I. GENERAL

In response to a query from Headquarters on installing a second VCVC line, the bureau recommended a multichanneled, music-quality circuit that we hope will reduce our technical involvement. According to London Bureau, the new system proposed by the BBC (which we support) would give us four narrowband voice circuits, three of which would be used for fixed continuous live feeds and a fourth as a flexible spare. We will be checking times and costs for improved local tails to the bureau from the Austrian P&T once we have the BBC specifications.

The continuing high exchange rate for the dollar (averaging 16.5-16.9 schillings) peaked at AS17.145 on the 9th, the best rate in more than 4 years. As a result, the bureau budget projections, which continue below the 1981 allotments, were reduced another \$15,800 during the month. On the negative side, the Vienna post allowance (COLA) again dropped as of 28 June for the second month in succession, this time from the 15 to 10 percent category. In cold cash, this translates out to a \$600 per year reduction per staffer.

After getting approval from Chief/Operations to increase our T/O by two, the bureau has had mixed results in its efforts so far to hire two more Polish monitors as well as to recruit a Yugoslav/Russian to fill a vacant spot. Whereas we were fortunate in finding four potential Polish candidates, one of whom is particularly promising, we have had to readvertise for the Yugoslav position as our only candidate to date is not a particularly strong contender.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In the continuing war of words between Albania and Yugoslavia, the Yugoslavs have announced they intend to increase the power of Pristina radio tenfold "within a few months." We are especially looking forward to this boost since we have been covering the Serbo-Croatian and Albanian casts from this poorly

heard provincial transmitter ever since the Kosovo problems came to a head in early April. In connection with the continuing unrest in Kosovo, we also sampled Pristina TV again this month, but asked our Belgrade contractor to discontinue her monitoring in mid-month because the programs did not prove very productive.

2. The bureau noted an increase this month in the amount of critical comment on Poland put out by the Bulgarians, who up to now had not been nearly as vocal as their more outspoken Czech and East German colleagues. Although the Bulgarian reportage on Poland picked up early in the month, it was particularly in evidence on the 23d when BTA carried three separate commentaries in its morning English-language transmission. The media has kept the pressure on ever since, especially in the newspapers, which are now publishing an unusually high number of reports, commentaries and articles on Poland.

3. Headquarters consumer requests for bureau videocassettes dropped to 15 this month as compared with 36 for May and the record 43 for April. A late month delivery of 100 new cassettes from Headquarters has replenished our stockpile, which had become precariously low.

4. Per a request from ELAD at mid-month, the bureau pitched in to help out Cologne Unit during a long holiday weekend in processing our first ever article (which dealt with sea basing of U.S. medium-range weapons) from the Munich newspaper SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG.

#### B. Communications

1. There was considerable trouble during the month with the VCVC, both with the equipment and the line itself. On the equipment side, three of the eight BBC-owned remote-controllable Lanier recorders developed trouble, probably due to head wear, and were pouched to Caversham for repair, per BBC request. In addition to the equipment problems, the circuit itself was out four times, with the longest interruption lasting nearly 24 hours on 1-2 June.

2. ASC Pirmasens' scheduled 6-7 June downtime for major modification work went smoothly once we cleared up a problem with ASC Croughton not implementing the Phase III altroute on schedule.

3. The bureau's Autodin Mode V circuit was out of service for 10:02, during which time 1,770 words were filed via the London VCVC altroute.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

Senior Yugoslav monitor [ ] was selected to be one of the four FBIS FSN's to attend the 14-18 September orientation program at Headquarters.

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#### B. Other

Deputy Chief [ ] signed private leases on 29 June for two nearby desirable apartments in the same building. Overall, we feel the prime location of the apartment house and the reasonable price make up for the inconvenience of the private leases which the owners insisted on having.

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### IV. VISITS

To the bureau: Deputy Director [ ] 6-9 June for regular management inspection trip & discussion with staffers of current developments; [ ] spec ass't to C/Ops, and PMCD personnel specialist [ ], 24-29 June for discussions with bureau personnel & Embassy personnel officer on Vienna & FBIS classification generally. On 24 June bureau chief attended meeting with State Deputy Secretary William P. Clark with U.S. staff.

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### V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On 8 June the bureau chief and wife hosted a picnic/grill party for FBIS Deputy Director and 3 dozen Embassy officers and contacts departing this summer, including Charge d/Affaires Sol Polansky and wife; on 3 June the bureau chief and wife attended farewell buffet reception hosted by chief and deputy chief of Peripheral Reporting Section for many departing Embassy personnel.

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FOR THE CHIEF, AUSTRIAN BUREAU

[ ]  
Acting Chief, FBIS Austrian Bureau

#### Attachments:

- Publishable Wordage Report
- Production Report
- Engineering Attachment
- Staff Personnel Report
- Nonstaff Personnel Report

cc: Chief, FBIS London Bureau